

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SSM-03 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

TRSE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 /099 W

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O 250015Z MAR 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2909

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 5698

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS MARCH 24 ON

SYG'S REPORT ON THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: A) USUN 804

B) USUN 871

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SECURITY COUNCIL MET IN CONSULTATIONS MARCH 24 UNDER PRESIDENCY OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG. COUNCIL MEMBEERS AGREED TO HOLD SC MEETINGS ON SYG'S REPORT ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE ON MARCH 25 AND 28 AT 3:30 PM. COUNCIL AGREED FURTHER TO REVIEW ON MARCH 28 SITUATION WITH A VIEW TOWARD EITHER CONCLUDING OR POSTPONING DEBATE. QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEBATED IN SC IN MORNING SESSIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. SECURITY COUNCIL INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD ON MARCH 24 TO DISCUSS SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS AS AGREED UPON BY COUNCIL ON MARCH 15 (REFTEL A) AND REQUESTED FORMALLY BY EGYPT ON MARCH 23 (REFTEL B). SC PRESIDENT OPENED CONSULTATIONS BY NOTING DOUBLING UP OF SC SESSIONS WOULD MAKE DEMANDS ON COUNCIL MEMBERS WHICH COULD BE ALLEVIATED TO DEGREE IF MEMBERS WOULD AGREE

TO KEEPING STATEMENTS IN BOTH DEBATES AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLE. YOUNG NOTED EGYPT'S EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DEBATE COULD BE LIMITED TO TWO OR THREE SESSIONS, BE NON-CONTENTIOUS AND THAT OUTCOME WOULD BE A SINGLE, PROCEDURAL-TYPE CONSENSUS STATEMENT. YOUNG POINTED OUT THAT EGYPT AND OTHERS AGREED ON PROPOSED INSCRIPTION OF ITEM AS "SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST: REPORT OF THE SYG SUBMITTED UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 31/62 CONCERNING THE PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST (S/12290 AND CORR. 1)."

3. LIBYA THEN ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT ENVISAGED A FULL DEBATE. YOUNG REPLIED THAT DEBATE SHOULD BEST BE CONFINED TO SYG'S REPORT AND AS INDICATED BY EGYPT COULD INDEED BE BREIF, TWO OR THREE SESSIONS. YOUNG REPORTED THAT AT FIRST MEETING ON MARCH 25, THE SYG WOULD INTRODUCE HIS REPORT AND THEN ONLY EGYPT HAD REQUESTED INSCRIPTION; ON MARCH 28 ISRAEL AND JORDAN WERE INSCRIBED. LIBYA THEN MADE POINT AND REPEATED IT SEVERAL TIMES THAT DEBATE ACCORDING TO PARA 3 OF GA RES 31/62 SHOULD BE COMPREHENSIVE AND THUS WOULD BEST BE POSTPONED UNTIL MID-APRIL. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO LIMIT NUMBER OF SPEAKERS. LIBYA ADDED THAT EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT IN MIDDLE EAST DEBATES CONCLUSIONS ARE NOT EASILY REACHED, ANTHTER REASON FOR POST-PONEMENT UNTIL MID-APRIL.

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4. MAURITIUS NOTED THAT EGYPT PREFERRED A BREIF DEBATE AND AGREED WITH PROPOSAL OF SC PRESIDENT THAT COUNCIL AGREE TO MEET ON MARCH 25 AND 28 AND THEN REVIEW STATE OF PLAY AS TO HOW TO PROCEED. BENIN THEN SUPPORTED A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT LIBYAN PROPOSAL THAT ONE MEETING BE HELD ON MARCH 25 WITH REMAINDER OF DEBATE POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL. CANADA SUGGESTED SYG BE INVITED TO PRESENT HIS REPORT AT MARCH 25 MEETING AND THEN SET ASIDE ITEM WITHOUT ANY DEBATE TAKING PLACE AT ALL. AFTER FURTHER INSISTENCE BY LIBYA THAT MIDDLE EAST DEBATES REQUIRE EXTENSIVE DEBATE AND THAT DEBATE AT THIS TIME WOULD "SPOIL" SOUTH AFRICAN MEETINGS, MAURITIUS AS OAU CHAIRMAN AND LIBYA AGREED TO TELEPHONE AMB. MEGUID (EGYPT) TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON SCHEDULING QUESTION WHILE COUNCIL TOOK BRIEF RECESS. YOUNG STATED AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT COUNCIL MEMBERS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT WHEN THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO AN ISSUE, SUCH AS IN CASE OF MIDDLE EAST, IT WAS ONLY EQUITABLE TO HEAR

BOTH SIDES AND MOREOVER SPEAKERS WERE  
ALREADY INSCRIBED ON MARCH 25 AND 28.

5. MAURITIUS RETURNED FROM CALL TO AMB. MEGUID  
AND REPORTED PRIVATELY TO YOUNG THAT EGYPT'S  
INSTRUCTIONS WERE FIRM TO HOLD MEETING ON MARCH 25.  
YOUNG SAID TO MAURITIUS WE WOULD HAVE TO INSIST  
ON AT LEAST TWO MEETINGS, MARCH 25 AND 28, TO  
ENABLE BOTH SIDES TO BE HEARD. MAURITIUS AGREED  
AND HELPFULLY ANNOUNCED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS THAT  
EGYPT REQUESTED MEETINGS ON MARCH 25 AND 28 WITH  
A VIEW TO EARLY TERMINATION OF THE ITEM. MAURITIUS  
ADDED THAT COUNCIL MIGHT AGREE TO MARCH 25 AND 28  
AND THEN TAKE READING ON HOW TO PROCEED. SC  
PRESIDENT PUT FORWARD PROPOSAL AND IT WAS THUS  
AGREED.

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6. COMMENT: LIBYA'S BUCKING EGYPT'S REQUEST FOR  
BRIEF DEBATE ON SYG'S REPORT GENERATED CERTAIN  
TENSION IN CONSULTATIONS WHICH MAY NOT AUGUR WELL  
FOR EASY NEGOTIATIONS OF CONSENSUS STATEMENT.  
LIBYA'S BACKING OFF FIRST IN AGREEING TO HOLDING  
ONE MEETING AND THEN AGREEING TO TWO MEETINGS  
MAY PLACATE EGYPT TO A DEGREE, BUT LIBYA WAS CLEARLY  
RESIGNALLING ITS POSITION AS FUNDAMENTALLY DIVERGENT  
FROM EGYPT'S ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. AS  
DEPARTMENT RECALLS, LIBYA WAS ABSENT FOR VOTE ON  
GA RES 31/62 AND OPPOSES GENEVA CONFERENCE  
NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS DIFFICULT AT THIS STAGE TO  
KNOW WHETHER LIBYA WILL NOW SIT BACK HAVING  
REGISTERED IT VIEWS OR WILL TAKE AGGRESSIVE STANCE  
IN ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT EARLY AND SUCCESSFUL  
CONCLUSION OF DEBATE.  
YOUNG

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## Message Attributes

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